

News Briefs

Christmas Concert

This year's annual Christmas celebration of cocoa and carols will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 in Goppert Theater. The Avila Singers will perform holiday songs. There will be a tree-lighting ceremony and hot cocoa reception in the Goppert Theater lobby following the concert.

Millennium Bash

Avila College will host its last dance of the millennium at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 in the snack bar. If those in attendance arrive at the dance dressed in clothes from their favorite decade, they will receive a free Y2K-readiness kit.

Spring Registration

The registrar's office wishes to remind students to register for classes before leaving for Christmas break.

Financial Aid Applications

Financial aid applications can be mailed after Jan. 1. Students currently receiving aid are reminded to complete renewal applications and tax forms as soon as possible.

Book Buy-Back

This year's "cash for books" will take place in the bookstore Dec. 6 through 16.

Holiday Sale

Avila insignia items are currently on sale for 15 percent off regular prices in the bookstore. The sale ends Dec. 23.

Classified Ads

The *Talon* will print a classified section in the newspaper beginning next spring. Ads cost \$5 for up to 40 words. To place an ad, contact Terry Mykins at (913) 491-1392.

Leadership Workshop

Facilitators are needed for an experiential leadership workshop to be held Feb. 12 in the snack bar. An experiential leadership workshop uses hands-on, fast-paced learning techniques to teach leadership skills to participants. To find out more about the workshop or volunteer to facilitate it, contact Blake Fry at Ext. 2226.

Coffeehouse Entertainer

Return to school next January ready to be entertained. NACA Coffeehouse Entertainer of the Year, Mike Rayburn, will bring his guitar and comedy routine to Avila at 8 p.m. Jan. 28 in the snack bar. Call Blake Fry at Ext. 2226 for more information.

College Night at the Blades

Invite friends and family members to attend the Avila College night at the Blades. The game will begin at 7:35 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28 at Kemper Arena. For more information or to order tickets, call Matt Hoff at (816) 842-5233 Ext. 428.

Writers Needed

The *Talon* needs writers for the spring semester. No prior writing experience is required. To find out more about writing for the school newspaper, call Steve Iliff at Ext. 2363 or Tiffany Bratton at (816) 916-7929.

THE TALON

Avila College	\$50 per semester activity fee
Fontbonne College	\$52-53 per semester activity fee
Washington University	\$117 per semester activity fee
Lincoln University	\$5 per credit hour activity fee
Central Methodist College	\$185 per semester general activity fee
Evangel University	\$150 per semester general activity fee
Drury College	\$50 per semester activity fee
St. Louis University	\$200 estimated fees per semester
Mid-America Nazarene University	\$372 general fee on campus
Friends University	\$40 new student fee

Student activity fee may increase

by MELISSA BASHAM
staff writer

Raising the student activity fee, an issue that has been on the Student Senate agenda for several weeks, was slated to be discussed during the Executive Committee meeting Thursday, Dec. 2.

If passed, the current fee of \$50 per semester will raise to \$75, starting Fall 2000.

The fee issue has already been passed by the Board of Trustees of Student Affairs.

In order for the new fee to be implemented by next fall, the issue must be passed by the Executive Committee before the end of this month. Due to

pending publications, the new fee amount would need to be printed next spring in Avila catalogs and class schedules.

Last year, Avila spent \$8,400 and this year has requested \$11,350 to be spent on student activities. The current student activity fee will only provide for \$8,500 of the requested money.

Terry Mykins, vice president of the Student Senate, said, "The fee needs to go up, otherwise the college will not be able to pay for certain student activities."

Mykins cited this year's orientation. He said it represented one-third of the overall student activity budget. "There is not enough money to go around," he said.

"Homecoming was paid for by the student activity fee. It had to be on campus because there was not enough money in the budget to have the dance be at a hotel," Mykins said.

The fee increase will affect both commuters and campus residents.

Megan Bridge, a commuter, said it is good to have free events for students

Avila plans for Y2K

Is the campus ready for the year 2000?

by SETH BOYER
staff writer

Avila College is currently 99 percent year 2000 (Y2K) compliant, according to Dennis Sander, vice president for fiscal affairs.

Sander was placed in charge of the Y2K issue in 1998. Since that time, he has formed a committee to look at potential campus problems.

Sander said the problems concerning Computer Services have almost been taken care of.

Since the fall of 1998, equipment has

been replaced in the Local Area network (LAN) and the operating system. All 486 machines on campus were replaced with Pentium chip computers.

Recently upgraded was the student server, Resident 1, which serves the computer labs and dormitories.

Computer Services plans to test all computer systems before the year 2000. Clocks will be set ahead to Jan. 1.

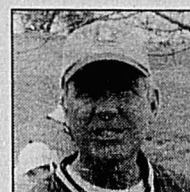
Sander said the Business and Registration offices are also problem free. The computer administration system, POISE, has been installed with upgrades.

Currently, the only problems not taken care of are the server routers and the telephone system. Sander said this is because these problems are out of Avila's hands. A few routers not owned by Avila, like the Kansas City Library's routers, have not been upgraded or replaced. Avila is hoping that the Kansas City Library will have this



Men's soccer champion over Bellevue

P A G E S E V E N



Campus mourns Dennis Gault

P A G E E I G H T



The *Talon* staff shares Christmas memories

P A G E T W E L V E

because they will get more involved in activities if they only have to pay one fee the beginning of each semester.

"Increasing the student activity fee will provide more funds to sponsor student events and programs," Joe Deighton, adviser of student senate and acting vice president and dean for student affairs, said.

"It would allow funding for already existing activities and fund activities or programs that were denied previously," Deighton said.

Julian Jackson, a resident, said the fee increase would be unnecessary with help from local businesses.

"Go to companies and ask them to help us out," Jackson said.

Companies have donated to Avila in the past. UPS (United Parcel Service) helped pay for orientation this year, according to Deighton.

The Student Senate has conducted surveys to find out what students want. They have also researched the fees charged by other colleges.

The issue now awaits the Executive Committee's final decision.

problem fixed soon.

Another concern is the new telephone system from Sprint, which is being shipped shortly and will be in place before Jan. 1, according to Sander.

Other minor concerns are a few PCs around campus that are not 100 percent Y2K compliant.

Another issue on the table is embedded chips, like VCRs or equipment that may carry any type of electronic chip.

The Y2K committee has confirmed that the math and science labs, the communication program and the nursing department is ready for the new millennium.

"If an incident were to happen, it would be minor and could be readily fixed. It would be dealt with like it were a bad snowstorm," Sander said.

In the event that something unanticipated does happen, Avila will be ready. Avila has revised the Contingency Plan in case there are any problems.

Avila Advantage says goodbye to Sr. Fran

by **REBECCA GRAY**
news editor

The students of the Avila Advantage program threw a going away party on Nov. 18 for Sr. Fran. "She was surprised; she did not expect it at all," Norman Dexter, executive director of Avila Advantage, said. Sr. Fran, director of advising and admissions for Avila Advantage, is

retiring. She is moving back to St. Louis, Mo. to care for her mother.

"She's the nerve center. Students open up to her on everything," Dexter said.

Sr. Fran started with the program in 1997. She is adviser to all Advantage students. She evaluates transcripts, enrolls students, keeps track of statistics and problem solves. "She is the driving force behind my education,"

Melody Folsom, one of the students who planned the reception, said the program is difficult. "Sr. Fran is encouraging and supportive," Folsom said.

Sr. Fran will remain at Avila part-time until the new director is trained.

According to Dexter, Sr. Fran said she felt like she helped give "birth" to the program; she said she feels comfortable with the new "person," but wants to spend some more time with it before giving control over.



Sr. Fran receives a surprise fairwell from the Avila Advantage program.

photography Denise Bradshaw

Financial aid awards new opportunities

Office encourages students to apply for possible aid

by **ERIN BARNES**
staff writer

Need money to pay for classes? If so, think about visiting the Financial Aid office, located in Blasco Hall across from the registrar's office.

"We really encourage everyone to apply for financial aid," Chrystal Williams, coordinator of financial aid services, said.

According to Williams, many students believe they are not eligible for financial aid because they think their parents make too much money, or they

have siblings who were not awarded financial aid.

"We now have a wider range of circumstances where we can give grants out, so it's really beneficial for everybody to see if they qualify for financial aid," Williams said.

According to Williams, one benefit of getting financial aid is reducing the tuition payment.

A lot of the financial aid funds are set up on a first come, first served basis, meaning the funds might become depleted early. Turning paperwork in on time is a major factor to being awarded financial aid.

"Especially for Missouri students. If they are eligible for a Missouri Gallagher grant, the government has to receive it by April 1," Williams said.

The first step to applying for financial aid is to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. This form is available in the Financial Aid office.

"Students who filled out a FAFSA last

year should receive a renewal application within the next couple of months," Williams said.

Students cannot mail their FAFSA applications or renewal applications until after the first of January Prior to completing the application, all applicants must complete their 1999 Federal tax forms.

"The best advice we can give you is to get all of your paperwork in to us before April 1," Williams said. "That way, we can try to guarantee any aid you are eligible for."

The interest rate on bank loans is presently low. According to Williams, the interest rate is currently at 6.32 percent. Nonetheless, students are encouraged to be cautious when borrowing.

"Borrow only what you need," Williams said. "Instead of borrowing in excess, apply for the funds you need to pay tuition and other fees. Remember that in the end, you do have to pay it back."

Depending on students' class rank, they are able to borrow more money.

"With the Stafford loan program that most students use, the amount they can borrow increases as they move higher up in class rank," Williams said.

Freshmen can borrow \$2,625 and sophomores \$3,500. Juniors and seniors can borrow up to \$5,500. "Classification is based on credits completed prior to the awarding of aid," Williams said.

Some of the banks that the Financial Aid office works with regularly are: Bank of America, Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co., Boone County National Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Commerce Bank, First Federal Bank and Mercantile Bank of St. Joseph.

The Financial Aid office will work with any bank students request, even if they have never worked through that bank previously. "It is up to the student to choose what bank that they want to use," Williams said.

Barley team brings spirit to campus

by **MELANIE SCHMITTLING**
associate editor

Jesus said, "Bring me the five barley loaves and two fish." And they all ate and were satisfied. John 6: 5-14.

Named after this Bible verse, the Barley Team at Avila College is doing just this.

The efforts of the Barely Team may be described as "the multiplication of the bread." The peer ministers are activating and nourishing life just as Jesus did.

The Barley Team, formerly known as the Peer Ministry Team, consists of four members of the student body and one adviser. Erica Berg, Katie Boyle, Chris Gleeson, and Mike Muller are the student members for the 1999-2000 academic year.

"The Barley Team is a group of students who work to provide visions,

goals, and direction to help implement programs for campus ministry," Steve Huber, director of campus ministry and adviser of the team, said.

The purpose of the Barley Team, operated largely by students, is to provide ministry for the students using their energy and efforts in positive ways to give others a positive experience of faith.

The Barley Team offers the Avila community the opportunity to be "bread" for others.

"Students ministering to other students is the clearest way to multiply and enrich the lives of all on campus," Huber said. This is where the name "Barley" Team is derived.

So far this semester, the Barley Team has been involved with planning the Back to School Mass, the Thanksgiving All Faith Prayer Service, the Christmas All Faith Service, and other various prayer services held periodically throughout the semester.

The team is also responsible for creating the reflections for the prayer services, choosing the readings for the service, finding the guest speaker, as well as finding the eucharistic minis-

ters for the masses by turning to those in the Avila community.

"The Barley Team has really changed from last year. I feel we have a better 'family group,' and we are going to be able to achieve bigger and better things," senior team member Chris Gleeson, said.

Horn-N-Ho-Hos is something new implemented by Huber and the Barley Team this semester. For three Sundays in November, people around campus listened for the blow horn and then came to a Eucharistic Celebration in Foyle Hall around 7 p.m.

The celebration was then followed by Ho-Hos and socializing with those in attendance. Look for Horn-N-Ho-Hos to show up again in the spring 2000 semester.

"With our new supervisor, Steve Huber, campus ministry will have a greater effect on the campus in years to come," senior team member Mike Muller, said.

The student members of the Barley Team receive a stipend set at \$1000 per year, with \$500 awarded each semester.

If interested in applying for the Barley Team for the 2000-01 school year, some of the qualities needed in order to qualify are: must be able to relate to peers and adults, collaborate with others, have a mature faith, possess imagination, be open, show enthusiasm and be prayerful.

For more information about the Barley Team, contact Huber at Ext. 2423.

Phone (816) 942-0202
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Beautification is an action

by **MEGAN REDENBAUGH**
staff writer

Campus clean-up completed its third season on Friday, Nov. 5. Begun last fall, this activity allows the campus community to get involved and take care of the campus.

This fall, David Gebauer organized the clean up. As director of the physical plant at Avila, Gebauer's job includes responsibilities that range from groundwork to housekeeping.

The event on Nov. 5 involved trimming trees, cleaning out flower beds, putting mulch down in the playground area, planting one tree, picking up trash and gathering leaves.

This was all done in preparation for winter, Gebauer said.

About 25 people—students and faculty—helped in cleaning. Gebauer did not expect many to attend due to the fact that not many people are on campus Friday afternoons, and because the weather was nice that day.

"I was happy with the turnout. It provided a chance for my department to

interact with the faculty and students," Gebauer said.

Blake Fry was one of those involved in the clean-up this fall.

"I chose to participate because I am a strong believer in the way the campus looks has to do with one's attitude toward the campus," he said. "If you enjoy being at Avila, you will want it to look good outside and inside."

The purpose of this activity was not only beautification, but also safety.

Some trees had limbs that hung low enough to damage cars, Gebauer said.

Faculty member Doris Frede gave another perspective of the clean-up. "It looks appealing to those who work at Avila as well as prospective students," she said.

According to Gebauer, there is only one full-time groundskeeper to tend to Avila's 48 acres. A day devoted to campus cleanliness is necessary to accomplish certain tasks. "One person can't do it all," he said.

Gebauer said he suggests two things that Avila faculty and students can do to help. "First, do not throw trash out of cars into the parking lots. We could clean them one day and by the next day they would be just as messy," he said. Second, he recommends attending the next clean up day on Friday, May 5.

Campus safety concerns students

by **FUMIKO HARA**
staff writer

Female students at Avila have expressed concerns about campus safety. Among those who are the most worried are campus residents.

"I never walk by myself at night," sophomore campus resident Anne Schonhardt said. Her roommate, Jenni Kindle, also a sophomore, confirmed the same reality for herself.

"The shrubs by the stairs from Carondelet Hall to the parking lot need to be removed because somebody could be standing behind them," Kindle said.

Outside lighting facilities on campus are another issue that Kindle and Schonhardt are concerned about. They said they think the lights need to illuminate the campus, so that people can be assured of their safety.

Kindle said when she gets out of class at 9 p.m. and walks to her dormitory, she does not see any security guards around. She said she wonders where she should run to ask for help if something happened to her.

To ensure safety, Kindle suggested emergency phones be installed on campus.

Joe Deighton, associate dean for student affairs, said equipping the campus with outdoor phones would be expensive, especially since the buildings are close.

Marian Center and Hooley-Bundschu Library are open until 11 p.m. each evening and have staff and phone access. The sentry's pager number is 840-1815. Anyone can call for help.

To help students avoid the risk of sexual assault, Deighton gives the following tips:

1) Be assertive. A student should say "no," if he or she does not want to be touched. Students should remember to communicate feelings.

2) Be aware of the level of intoxication. Alcohol and drugs cause people to lose control and can aggravate a partner's attitude and actions.

3) Use the "buddy system." It is a good idea to leave social events with friends, instead of being left alone.

4) Be aware of surroundings. Avoid being in vacant rooms or floors.

5) Trust gut feelings. When a people feel they are in a dangerous situation, they are probably right and should remove themselves from the situation as soon as possible.

Deighton said Avila does not have a big security problem. However, he is concerned about small thefts on campus. The theft from residence halls and other buildings has increased within the past few years.

Deighton encourages people at Avila to identify their personal belongings by marking them with their first and last names. He said identification can work to effectively assist in reducing theft on campus.

More information is displayed on the bulletin board by the front entrance to Marian Center, including a pamphlet, "Your Safety is Our Concern," published by Avila College.

To voice concerns or obtain reports about campus security, call Deighton at Ext. 2228 or 2260.

Committee recommends campus improvements

by **FUMIKO HARA**
staff writer

Since the fall of 1998, the Strategic Planning Workgroup on Facilities and Services has been discussing ways to improve the Avila campus.

According to Blake Fry, the work group chair, members of the group are in charge of recommending improvements to facilities and services at Avila.

Members classified their recommendations into the following categories: required facilities, facilities needed to help recruit and retain students, services necessary to recruit and retain students and incorporated elements of the campus master plan.

"Avila's strategic goal is increasing the number of resident students," Steve Iliff, faculty representative and committee member, said.

According to Fry, this does not mean the college is going to ignore non-residential student's needs.

"But we do emphasize residential students," Fry said.

In order to increase the number of residential students, a new residence hall has been suggested by the work group.

A major recommendation the committee proposes is development of the football program. This includes the construction of a football field, additional locker rooms and a multi-purpose recreation area with new athletic offices.

More fitness equipment will also need to be purchased.

Another recommendation is the renovation of O'Rielly Hall. Avila remodeled portions of O'Rielly last year, but the science and high-technology rooms and facilities still need improvements.

An additional building housing more offices and classrooms is also on their list of recommendations.

Lounge spaces and recreation areas in Marion Center are necessary to recruit students, as is the renovation and expansion of the bookstore.

The Hooley-Bundschu library is an issue members of the group focused on. The library's expansion is proposed to increase the number of journals, databases and computers. This would make more resources available for all students at Avila.

The committee also discussed ways to improve campus security. The hiring of additional security guards would enable the campus to offer a 24-hour security program.

Campus lighting, expansion of parking lots and renovations of residential halls are also recommended.

The improvement of personal counseling services on campus should also help the college prepare for new residential students.

To continue elements called for under the existing master plan, facilities for students with disabilities, Borserine education labs and the construction of a gated entrance are proposed.

"Our next step will be to go to the community, students, faculty and staff and say, 'Here are our recommendations. What do you think?'" Iliff said.

An open forum will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 in the Marion Center lounge to discuss the recommendations.

The committee's final recommendations will go to the Board of Trustees. The Board will decide what action to take after opinions from the Avila campus community have been collected.



photography Denise Bradshaw



photography Denise Bradshaw

(from left) Sara Maley, Jill Reaka, and Thailand Tran lip sync to "Too Shy" by Kajagoogoo.

The assignment allowed students to confront their social fears.

The Stretch

assigned by professor Ben Meade
Fundamentals of Communication
Aired live on ATV

(from left) Megan Bridge, Nick Baum, Ryan Quackenbush, and Jamie Cox lip sync to "Car Wash" by Rose Royce.

The assignment also enabled students to explore other aspects of themselves.

Kappa Delta Pi and the Avila Education Association are hosting the **Annual Winter Dinner** on Sunday, December 12, 1999 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Whitfield for all interested and current members. Sign-up sheet is located on the KDPI and AEA bulletin board in Hodes.

M I L L E N N I U M

Changes in artistic perspective through time

A look at art forms developed during the past millennium

by **RHIANNA HATFIELD**
staff writer

Creativity has been in the hearts of humans for thousands of years. This is apparent in everything, from fountains in plazas to the architecture of the buildings standing tall in the evening sky.

Over the past millennium, for example, the trends of creativity in architecture have shown considerable change.

At the opening of this millennium, the Romanesque style of architecture was popular in Europe. The round arches, barrel vaults and heavy stone construction associated with this style are clearly of Roman influence.

In Africa at this time, the Ife style of casting was popular. This was a highly realistic and sophisticated art that was used only to portray royalty.

From the 12th through the 15th centuries, the Gothic style of architecture

reigned in Europe.

Characterized by pointed arches, rigged vaults and flying buttresses, this style made it possible to create stone buildings of great heights. The tall, light-filled structures symbolized the triumph of the spirits over the bonds of earthly life.

At this time in the Americas, the Aztecs were creating menacing stone sculpture. Their art reflected the strict worship of their gods, including human sacrifice.

Prior to the Spanish conquest of 1532, the Incas created exquisite gold objects that were then melted down by the invaders. The Incas are also known for their skill in shaping and fitting rock.

According to the Inca creation myth, two of their early ancestors turned themselves into stone after emerging from the earth. For this reason, some stone shrines were regarded as sacred living things.

In Europe during the late 14th through the 16th centuries, a rebirth of learning sparked a change to a more realistic form of art. This movement was called the Renaissance.

Painting and sculpture became liberated from their medieval role as supplements to architecture. Artists began to be seen as individuals of creative genius.

Human expression began to be portrayed. Italian artists sought to inte-

grate Christian spiritual traditions with rational, physical life. Artists began to study anatomy and geometry.

Depictions of nudes came to be seen as noble representations of the immortal soul.

Some famous works from this time period are Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," Michelangelo Buonarroti's "David" and Sandro Botticelli's "Birth of Venus."

The era known as the Baroque period includes the 17th and most of the 18th centuries in Europe. Baroque artists explored more innovative uses of light and space.

Their work shows great energy, feeling and balance. Rembrandt was an accomplished painter of this time period.

Romanticism was a movement of the late 18th and 19th centuries, and existed against the sometimes cold art of Neoclassicism.

Works in this style normally depicted forces of nature, exotic life styles, danger, suffering and nostalgia.

Impressionism is a style of painting that originated in France about 1870.

The paintings were executed outdoors and used divided brush strokes to depict the light and mood of a particular moment. Monet and Degas were impressionist painters.

The Post-Impressionist period refers to the time after the Impressionist period, when artists reacted to

Impressionism in highly individual ways.

Whether rebelling against unclear shapes or emotionless faces, Post-Impressionists such as Vincent Van Gogh greatly influenced 20th century Expressionist styles.

Expressionism describes emotional art as being boldly executed using distortion and symbolic color. It was popular in Europe early this century.

Dada began in Northern Europe in protest against the horrors of World War I. Because dadaists believed that society had narrow-minded values, they poked fun at tradition in an attempt to shock the middle class into revelation.

Marcel Duchamp's 1919 painting of the Mona Lisa with a mustache is a prime example of this style of art.

The numerous styles of art in the 20th century parallel the fast-paced technological advances of the time.

Surrealism, Harlem Renaissance, Regionalism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop, Minimal, Conceptual, Photo-Realism and Post-Modernism are only a few examples of this century's art forms.

It was once said that "creative expression is a function of being human." This is true of people from all times and locations. Their techniques may differ, but their purpose remains the same.

Literature carries humanity forward

Spotlight on one thousand years of literary excellence

by **SARAH A. LaFONTAINE**
opinions editor

Western society has come a long way from *Beowulf* to Stephen King's *It*.

To encompass all of the literature over the last thousand years is an overwhelming task. So, a few memorable authors and their stories deserve a little recognition in this reflection of a millennium of written storytelling art.

One such author is Edgar Allen Poe. Poe is seen as the father of the modern mystery. Poe's unique style combined the unknown with a twisted sense of human nature.

One of his most famous works is the poem, "The Raven," in which he penned the now famous quote, "Nevermore."

One cannot discuss literature and not acknowledge William Shakespeare. No

person can go through high school without being assigned a Shakespeare-authored piece to read.

Most well known for *Romeo and Juliet*, his story of two star-crossed lovers, Shakespeare is one of Western society's most prominent authors.

His plays and sonnets encompass every aspect of human emotion, from love and passion to hate and murder.

Some authors tackled the difficult topics of their time.

Harriet Beecher Stowe and Samuel Clemens (AKA Mark Twain) both dealt with the harsh realities of slavery.

Huckleberry Finn and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* have been two of the most high-

ly debated literary works of all time.

They influenced the societies of their time, and forced people to face the issue that was before them.

There are so many other worthy authors that have added to literature during the past millennium, that they cannot all be mentioned here.

Western society's written language is such an incredible art, that perceptions of what works are deemed as "great" is different for each individual.

With the amazing works that came from the past thousand years, one can only marvel at what the next millennium holds for society.

Artistic expression reveals the human soul

Series commentary

by **TIFFANY LEIGH BRATTON**
editor-in-chief

Artistic expression has been part of the human experience for millennia. Through the gauze-like layers of truth art reveals, latent possibilities alive within the human psyche are called forth.

During the past thousand years, the basic concept of art has not swayed from its ancient roots in human civilizations, but it has evolved as encompassed trends in political and philo-

sophical thought influenced it.

The Renaissance in Europe, for example, altered the way artists viewed themselves and the world. The way they used art reflected a broader, freer, more secularized perspective than previous centuries did.

Brush strokes and musical tones, rhythmic movements and literary ideals, manifest themselves as momentary glimpses into a realm of human reality unseen without art's aid.

The varying forms of artistic expression are cross-sections of a language that is understood and experienced sensually.

Art is a vehicle which tells of ineffable ideas while reflecting changing currents of cultural thought. At times revolutionary, demanding that audiences change ways of thinking, art subjectively speaks to humanity in ways that conventional languages may not be able to articulate.

Underneath its outer forms, art reveals portions of truths unspoken

without its elegant modes of expression. George Bernard Shaw said that art allows people to view and understand their psyches. "You use a glass mirror to see your face," he wrote. "You use works of art to see your soul."

Through the deception of its simplicity, "great" art captivates the viewer, listener or reader, concealing its appearances by its own grandeur. Art therefore allows people to find peace and solace in its silent messages.

Humanity's continuous quest to find meaning and purpose is guided by art, which helps delineate potential paths.

Art also connects people in a delicate sea of togetherness.

Romantic-era composer Franz Schubert said that "no one feels another's grief, no one understands another's joy. People imagine that they can reach one another." Art is the way people briefly capture a tiny spark of what it means to be someone else, while subtly touching upon the hidden meaning

of what it means to be themselves.

Today, with radios and televisions, compact discs and the Internet as part of one's cultural experience, it may be worthwhile to wonder how the art of the next millennium will be shaped by the arts, technologies and philosophical thoughts of the past and present.

How will today's world, which is the off-shoot of yesteryear, direct the paths of tomorrow?

Next millennium, in the Spring 2000 issues of *The Talon*, the staff will begin to explore some of the possibilities for the world of tomorrow.

The focus of the Millennium series will shift from one that looks back to one that explores the past influences in order to better understand possible trends of the future.

Readers are encouraged to write letters or articles, make suggestions and participate in the series as *The Talon* reviews the lessons of the past while society begins to carve out the plights of the future.

Music flows across cultural continuums

by TIFFANY LEIGH BRATTON
editor-in-chief

During the past millennium, music's tonal landscape has revealed an ever-changing climate of expression.

The roots of its expression span thousands of years.

In the primitive societies of the distant past, ceremonies that included singing and dancing were basic tribal experiences. This category of musical expression is believed to have been developed from nature. Mating calls, bird songs and the rhythms of labor were imitated by ancient tribal communities.

Soon, the cries of battle and hunts, pounding drums of religious and magic rites and degrees of speech inflection were based on audible tones.

As nations were formed, folk music became predominant among peasants. It was orally passed from generation to generation, and was usually prone to variation. Folk music incorporated diverse aspects of life, retelling such stories as work and play and birth and death through song and instrumental accompaniment.

Music strayed from its tribal and village backgrounds as societies developed. Aristocrats had time to participate in music, and began to refine the tradition. New musical forms emerged as cultivated genres of the leisure class.

In each stage of musical development, the political and philosophical ideologies of each society shaped and defined music.

Although the types of music have changed and been refined, music's basic purposes remain the same for all cultures.

This is because music speaks a language of tone and rhythm, expressing in its universal forms feelings of joy or sorrow. These fluid messages can carry humanity toward an inner continuum, a subjective place of private meanings. E.T.A. Hoffmann, a 19th century

composer, said that above all, "music discloses to man an unknown realm, a world in which he leaves behind him all definite feelings to surrender himself to an inexpressible longing."

As musical techniques evolved, rhythm was used to open the passage-way toward these inherent longings. The word rhythm is derived from Greek and means "flow." In accordance with its definition, rhythm may communicate a human need for order and progress.

During the past thousand years, innate human needs have caused music to surge forward, rapidly separating this audible art from previous limits in sound.

The Romanesque period in Europe (c. 850-1150) marked the passage into this new culture of musical art.

Much of the progress was caused by the emergence of polyphony in western music. Polyphony is the union of two or more melodies. By having regular rhythmic meters in each song, it became possible to have different voices sing concurrently.

To indicate when each voice was to sing, the rhythm and pitch had to be recorded accurately. This development led to the introduction of the staff, circa 1000. The staff is used in musical notation and allows music to be preserved precisely.

This Romanesque-period innovation used the treble clef (for the female singing voice) and the bass clef (for the male singing voice) to record differing pitches and intervals of musical sounds.

By the Gothic period (c. 1150-1450), the preservation of music marked the finale for much of the anonymous folk art; the era of improvisation and ceremonial rites was ending.

The Gregorian chant became prevalent during the Gothic period in Europe. These chants are also called motets. A motet is a polyphonic composition that unites sacred text with rhythm. Motets do not rely on instrumental accompaniment.

Through the use of polyphony, the Gregorian chants are based on the arrangement of notes in recognizable rhythmic patterns.

By the Renaissance in Europe (c. 1450-1600), a cappella music (which literally means "for the chapel") emerged as a new form of vocal art. A cappella music relies on a theme called

"continuous imitation." Each voice imitates the others, wandering back and forth from soprano to alto to tenor to bass. This creates a chain of rhythmic sound that carries subtle and varied effects.

A cappella music does not use instrumental accompaniment.

Opera emerged during the Baroque period (c. 1600-1750).

A group of Italian writers, artists and musicians, including Vincenzo Galilei (father of the astronomer Galileo Galilei), were members of a salon culture called the "Camerata."

This group of aristocratic humanists sought to resurrect the union of Greek music and drama. Unaware of what music was like in the ancient Greek culture, members of the Camerata defined the music according to their own desires.

Opera, which uses "tone painting," became their resultant genre. Tone painting unites music and poetry to promote certain mental states. Passions are explored through such poetic compositions.

Opera relies on music that uses a single melody. This homophonic style strayed from the polyphonic leanings of the past. Opera is vocal and is a monody, which literally means that it is based on "one song." This form of monodic music uses instrumental accompaniment for one singer.

By the Classical period (c. 1775-1825), the opera house became the center of musical experimentation.

The Classical period triumphed as the age of reason.

Ideas of objectivity, poise and serenity were used to compose music that was based on logic and perfection. Emotion was purged, and art was believed to exist outside of the artist, unconnected to egoistic motives for creation.

The Classical period was an era of musical excellence. Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart were Classical composers.

In the case of Mozart, it is said that he "taught the instruments to sing," uniting beauty, perfection and grace in his compositions.

Classicism was also marked by a subtle reality. It was an era that bridged the dying past of elegance with the approaching future of industrialization.

The Romantic period (c. 1820-1900) was an era of wonder, ecstasy, strangeness and longing. It was linked to

dreams, and thereby called upon latent passions alive within the human psyche.

The Industrial Revolution, which took place during the 19th century, allowed the emergence of cheaper, more efficient musical instruments. This meant that musicians could compose pieces for orchestras, thereby producing a widened scale of musical effects than were possible during the preceding periods.

Music was also transported from the palace to the concert hall, concurrently promoting a spirit of nationalism and the rediscovery of folk song and dance.

Conservatories dotted the countryside.

Pianos became popular instruments owned by many middle class families.

The art song, as it is known today, was developed during the early 19th century. Its union of poetry and music was based on lyrical poems (The literature of such poets as Wordsworth and Keats was thus united with the musical compositions of such musicians as Schumann and Brahms.).

Short piano pieces were also prevalent during the 19th century. These miniature works of art are believed by some people to hold as much beauty as a symphony.

By the early 20th century, there was a growing disdain for the subjective loveliness of the Romantic era.

Many forms of musical expression emerged during this century. Neoclassicism, New Nationalism and Impressionism were among the new genres.

Expressionism, which was based on the subconscious mind and symbolism of dreams, was popular in Vienna. Expressionism was based on Freudian beliefs and attempted to hold onto the dying art of the Romantic era.

African music and its rhythms also influenced music in the twentieth century.

In the United States, jazz uses improvisation to call upon long-forgotten roots of musical expression. The new harmony and rhythm of ragtime and rhythm and blues are popular in New York, Kansas City and New Orleans.

Gershwin and Copland composed jazz that was used for film and opera, bringing a new sense of clarity and balance to the musical community.

The introduction of electronic music in the 1950s and '60s and use of synthesizers and computer-generated music today have made music a common part of cultural experience.

It may make one wonder what the music of the next millennium will be like.

Rock 'N Roll, Hard Rock, Easy Listening, Classical, Country and Pop are prevalent musical genres at this dualistic age, one that marks both the conclusion of a century and a millennium.

As humanity ventures onward, collecting within each experience the rhythmic values of order and grace, new chapters of artistic expression will be written. What forms will rhythm and music take? In what ways will the human longing inherent within each individual be revealed? The answers lie in the cultural ideologies of the next millennium.

The Millennium Series



Surging toward
a new tomorrow

Lady Eagles soar sky high

by **CHRIS ERVIN**
staff writer

The 1999 Lady Eagles basketball team set out to improve on last year's record. This season is not yet complete, but with a 5-0 start, the season looks promising.

"It's nice to start the season this well and to be ranked first in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference, but it's not going to our head," captain Kari Donnell said.

While being the number one seed in the conference, the Lady Eagles are also ranked 29th in the nation. They are looking to move higher as they play Central Bible College Saturday, Dec. 4.

"The weather is getting cold outside, but our team is heating up the gym," Donnell said.

This is one of the best starts for the Lady Eagles.



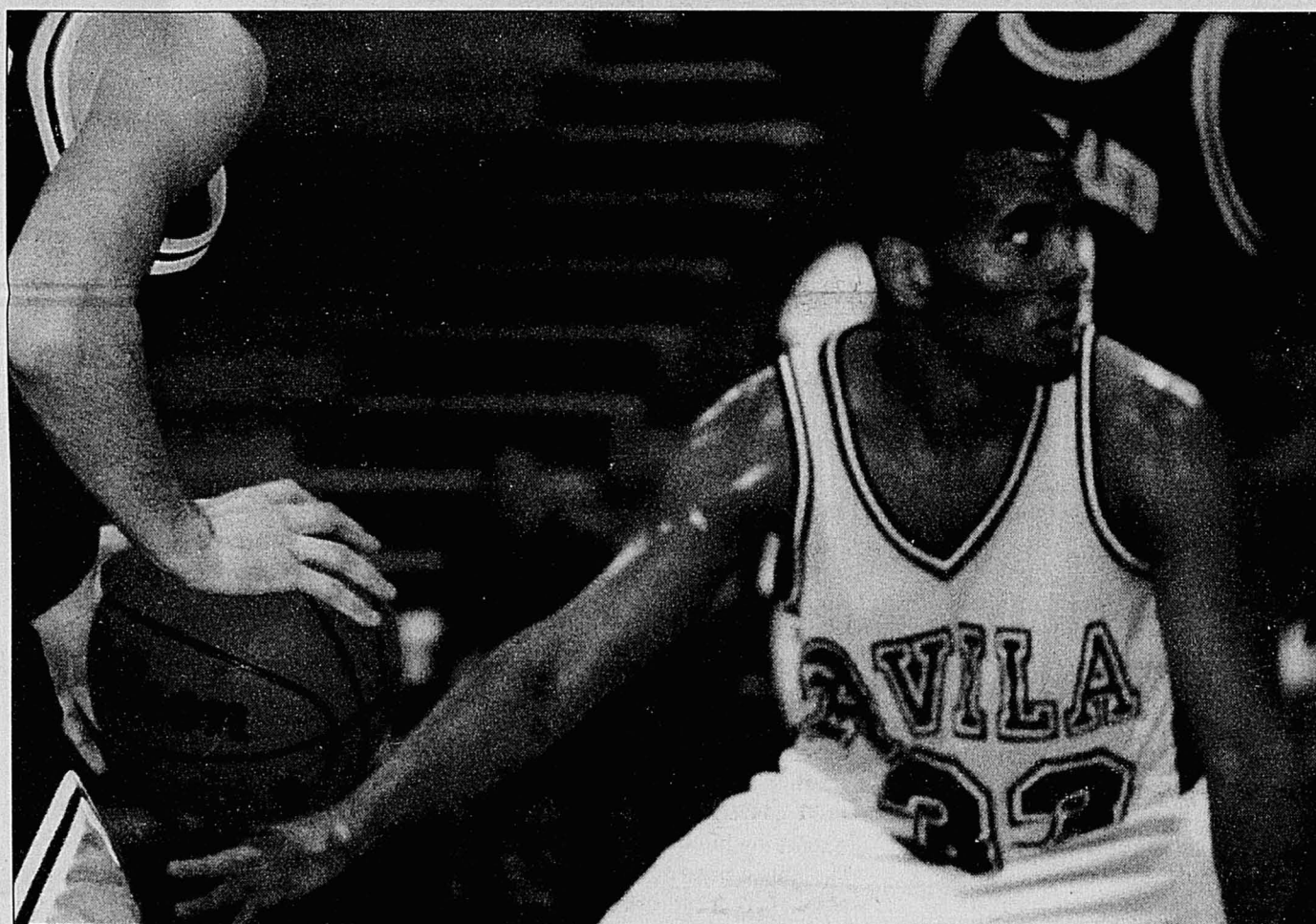
Kelly VanRiesen jumps to get a shot in.

photography Karen Guber

After sluggish starts in the first half of their games, the team rebounds to pull out the victory in the second half.

Following halftime, the team picks up their defensive intensity to prevail with a perfect record.

"They are fun to watch this season; all of their players are playing together. There is a different one stepping up every game," Mike Beckett, a fan, said.



Terrell Tigner glances at the defense as they guard the basket.

photography Karen Guber

Men's basketball struggles to stay afloat

by **KAREN GUBER**
sports editor

After a loss to Harris-Stowe State College and another to William Jewell, followed by three more, the men's basketball team has struggled in the areas of defense and offense.

Injuries have plagued many of the team's starters and have attributed to the team's unsuccessful 1-6 record.

The men fell behind after having a 17 point lead early in the first half against Graceland College.

Graceland pulled ahead by 10 before the Eagles could create any offense.

The team came back to tie, but lost 104-102 in a near shootout that took place in the last minutes of the game.

"We didn't handle the pressure and didn't keep the intensity we had in the beginning," point guard K.C. Moultrie said. "The loss is blamed on not scoring early and not having good defense to hold onto the lead. A game like that shouldn't be a dogfight that comes down to who makes what shot before the buzzer."

With offense and defense still in the early stages for this young team, the Eagles added one more loss to their record, this time against Ottawa University.

"We played Ottawa in their hometown, on their home court, with their refs. They started out strong and carried that throughout the game," Moultrie said. "We didn't leave it all out there on the court like we should have."

"We tried to maintain, but they pulled away and kept on going. The physical effort was there, but the mental effort could've been better," shooting guard Mario Rodgers said. "It's all about execution. Offense and defense is what it comes down to."

The Eagles will play their next home event at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 against Central Bible College.

Volleyball team plans next season

by **KARA ANDERSON**
staff writer

The season might be over, but the Avila Eagles volleyball team is still in action.

Kelsey Orr, junior, is a member of the team. She said the team will start conditioning training the beginning of February. In March they will begin practicing and playing-one-on-one.

"Next year, the team should be stronger, especially because the fresh-

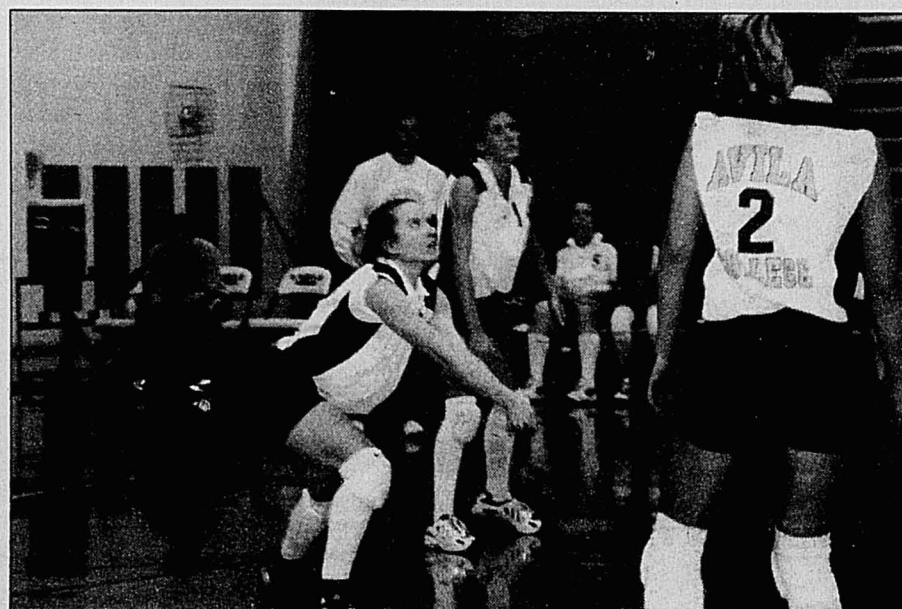
men have had a semester of experience. Bringing new recruits and building our team should also be a strong point," Orr said.

There were eight women on the 1999 team.

"We have a lot of talent on the team. I thought that we started out working real hard. I hope that next year we can pull it all together and get some experience under our belt," Erin Hall, sophomore, said.

The players will be working hard to improve their plays and styles. They said they all hope to obtain a better record next fall.

Tryouts for the team of Y2K were held on Nov. 20. This summer, the team will be putting together a USVBA (United States Volleyball Association) team.



Sarah Hall prepares to receive the ball.

photography Karen Guber

Men's soccer eliminates Bellevue

by **KAREN GUBER**
sports editor

In Mabee Fieldhouse, the banners commemorating championships of years past have hung silently for a long time. Twelve years ago, back in 1987, the last banner for a conference title won by an Avila men's soccer team was added.

The Eagles, who headed into post season play as the number three seed, hosted Bellevue University in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference championship game. The previous meeting between the Eagles and the Bruins resulted in a 2-2 tie, and was the only other time this season the two teams competed against one another.

Sixteen minutes into the second half, forward Jared Bryant headed a pass to midfielder Drew Woodruff. Woodruff drove the ball past Bellevue's keeper, allowing the Eagles to take a 1-0 lead.

At 26:52, forward John Vogel sailed a pass to midfielder Jason Gatewood, who delivered the ball to Woodruff. The team pushed ahead 2-0 after Woodruff tallied his second point of the contest.

Bellevue's Bill Pearce brought the Bruins back within a goal, with just over eight minutes left in the game.

The Eagles were able to hold onto the lead and advanced to regional play after defeating Bellevue 2-1.

"We knew we could stomp Bellevue after tying them in the regular season. Being able to play them at home held a definite advantage too," forward Tyler Barr said.

In the regional match, the men faced Kansas Wesleyan. Wesleyan finished their regular season with only one loss. Gatewood and midfielder Marc Cannovi came up with two big goals, allowing the Eagles to advance to the regional final.

"After beating a team that finished 14-1-4, you feel as if you can take it to anyone in the nation," Barr said. "It's an awesome feeling."

The regional final matched the Eagles with long time rival Kansas Newman College. Newman scored off a deflection and the Eagles were unable to convert on any offensive chances. The game ended in a 1-0 victory for Newman.

"We came further than anyone expected. We have nothing to hang our heads about," goalkeeper Kenneth "K2" Kirkendoll said.

"We finished in the top 32 of the nation. We've risen back to the national level, and now the nation knows we're out here," Barr said.



photography Karen Guber

The team shows off their championship trophy.



photography Karen Guber

Ben Chai and Mike Muller use teamwork to keep play moving.



photography Karen Guber

Ryan Orton watches as a Bellevue player defies gravity.



photography Karen Guber

Ben Chai attempts to keep possession of the ball.

conference championship
Bellevue University W 2-1

regionals
Kansas Wesleyan W 2-1

regional final
Kansas Newman L 0-1

overall record

wins	losses	ties
13	8	1

MCAC All Conference

Jared Bryant forward

Ben Chai forward

Tim Tracy defender

Honorable Mentions

Nick Baum goalkeeper

Jason Gatewood midfielder

MCAC Coach of the Year

Patrick Phillip Head coach

Avila Dance Team

From left to right:

Jessica Agard
Karrie Cox
Natasha Langford
Therese Cox
Tekia Thompson

Front:

Rebecca Wywadis

Not Pictured:

Sarah LaFontaine
Breanna Jones



photography Karen Guber

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I N R E M E M B E R A N C E

I only had the privilege of knowing Dennis for a short period of time. I first met him last fall when I attended the softball tryouts.

He was positive and encouraging in his role as coach and made us feel as if we were part of his family.

I didn't realize he was seriously ill. He didn't discuss his illness or let it get him down during games.

He gave softball and each of his players his all for as long as he could!

KATIE COLLURA

Words can't describe how much Dennis meant to me. He was more of a friend than a coach. He believed in me when even I had doubts.

I will miss everything about him.

JIMMY CHAPMAN



Thanks for helping us to be better students, athletes and human beings. You've made our dreams come true."

Thanks for all the great memories.

With love, Your Girls, Avila Softball 1999-2000.

My dreams came true because of Dennis. He had faith and confidence in me and was able to instill it in me.

He not only made me have faith and confidence on the field, but also in my life. He repeatedly pushed me to follow my dreams, achieve my goals, be a better student and also a better human being.

I was lucky enough to have been blessed with the best coach, friend, and mentor a person could have. Even though he was only in my life for such a short time, he left an impact so large that words cannot express how great it was.

The impact will affect me throughout my life and I will always carry Dennis with me in my heart.

KATIE KRAWCZYK

The softball team would like to thank Dennis's family for sharing their husband, father and grandpa with us!

We appreciate it very much. We've had many great moments with him that were funny and teary-eyed.

From,
The 1999-2000 Team

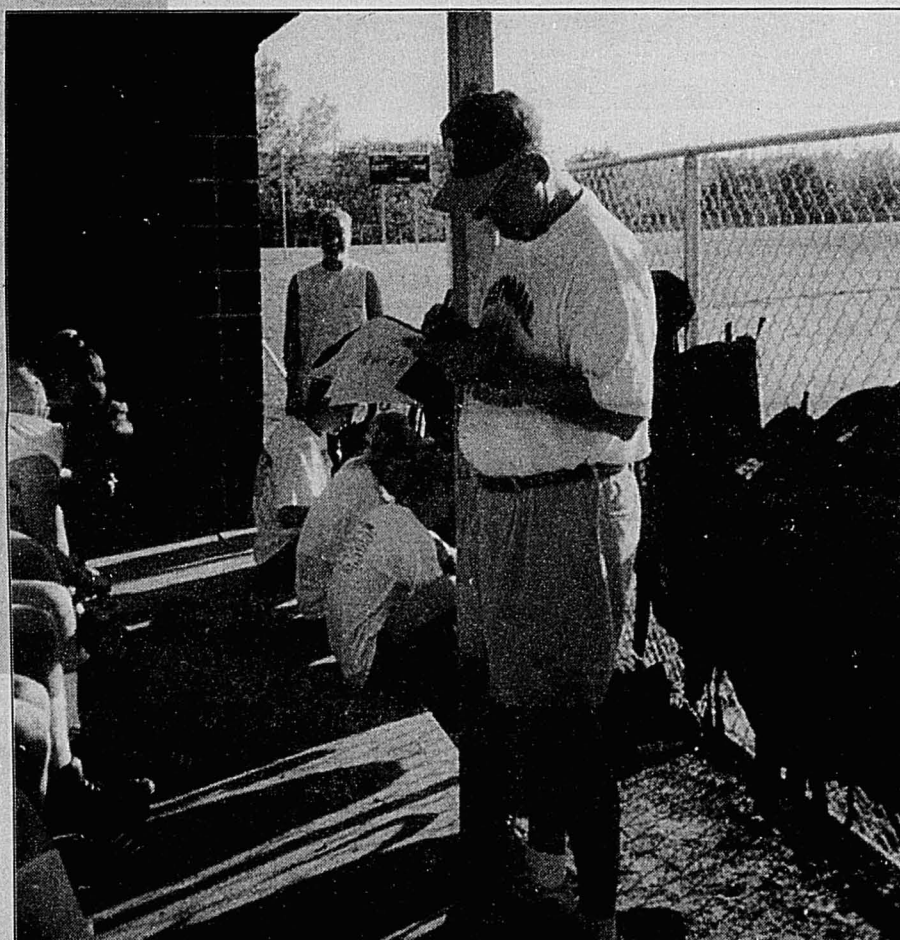
"The angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence toward us, they regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways, and exercise a constant solicitude that no evil befall us."

-John Calvin

There is no other way to describe a coach who is a friend, mentor, and at times a dad than "angel." Without Dennis, our dream of playing college softball together would have never come true.

He not only was there for us in softball, but in life, and he will always be in our hearts. We hope that someday an angel like Dennis touches your lives.

Love always & forever,
The Goebel Girls
(Ginny and Dana)



Dennis was a wonderful husband, father, coach and friend. I will miss him dearly.

The last few days of Dennis's life, I was in the hospital with him, his family and most of the team. This situation really made me think how precious life really is.

Everyone was there supporting Dennis, his family and all of the teammates.

We were all in terrible grief when Dennis passed on to a new and better life. Even though he leaves us here behind, we should remember all of the great memories.

Dennis gave respect to every single person he ever spoke to.

Everything Dennis has ever done for the team was greatly appreciated by all of us, even through the tough times we had gone through.

Through this tough time, the team has gotten really close. This is a good thing, because it will make us a stronger team this spring.

It will be tough in the beginning because we won't have Dennis's positive attitude around to make us laugh, or his crazy nicknames that he gave all of us, "Katty baby" or "6-spot."

But we can take those names and remember all the great times to make us more successful this next season.

My heart and prayers go out to the family. I will miss Dennis very much, but I will never forget him. I loved Dennis as a coach, a father figure and a friend.

Love,
Kathy Schrader
"6-Spot"

Dedicated
Excellent
Noble
Notable
Inspirational
Spunky

Our Coach

Our coach is someone who cares
Spends many hours with the team
We're like a big family affair
Who has bright future dreams.

He inspires and motivates us
To be the best we can be
Which is a very big plus
For everyone, especially me.

He shows us how to swing
And field the ball and throw
Our favorite part is winning
Because he taught us what we know.

Seeing all the hurt faces
After we lose a hard game
He takes us to eating places
In which we never complain.

He makes practice a blast
For he buys us ice cream
As years, months, and days past
He coached a very special team.

He was a very happy man
As he danced and sang
With all of us in the van
Our road trips were a bang!

The great coach that we had
And a tremendous dad to some
He made us all feel glad
Of the ball players we've become.

Our coach and father has gone above
It is hard for some because he gave us his love

In life he was what most strive to be
But for this man, it came easily

Now that he has moved on in his being
We have to prove to him, we'll keep on winning

Not only in sports, but in our lives as well
He's expecting us to carry on his spell

In the aftermath of his death,
It is hard to keep one's breath

Just remember his kindness, his smile,
And his desire to go the extra mile

He always wanted to bat and score first
Just like he seized the day, and ignored the worst

He will always be instilled in our hearts
Make sure we keep him alive in our thoughts

We love you Dennis!
Your Girls!
by Erika Goeckeritz

Dennis was a guy who everyone would have wanted as a coach. He inspired many of us on and off the softball field. He would go all out to make us happy little girls, by getting us what we wanted or needed.

He cared about our problems and always wanted to know how our classes were going and making sure we were keeping up with the good grades that he wanted out of us. He took the time for us girls, and that's what we like in a great coach, someone who is willing to listen and help us with things other than softball.

He loved the game of softball as much as he did his family and his players.

Dennis helped many of us become better softball players and to love the game even more. He helped some of us to have our best seasons with him here at Avila.

It was very seldom that you would see Dennis without a smile on his face. He would brighten every day for many of us.

Not only was Dennis a great coach, he was a great friend, and a great dad to all of us.

by Valerie Olivier
senior outfielder

"A man's success is measured by the people who love and honor him when he is gone. . . I guess you could say he was pretty darn successful."



"God please
let there be
a softball field in heaven."

The world is now short a magnificent man,
One of whom I was a very big fan.
He shared all he knew about softball and life,
And always expressed his love for his wife.

A wonderful man we will never forget,
A flame in our hearts will always be lit.

by Melissa Vasko

Dear Dennis,

We just wanted to thank you for all you did for us this year. Even though we only knew you for a short period of time, you became a second father to us. Anytime we hurt, you helped us to heal. When we cried, you made us laugh. If we messed up, you helped us learn from our mistakes. Because of you, our dreams of playing college softball came true.

You had faith in our abilities and always let us know how good we were. We've seen how much you've impacted the lives of the upper classmen and wish we could have gotten to spend more time with you. Thanks for everything and all the memories. We will never forget you.

Love always,
The Fab Four,
Emmie #2
Maley #16
Tobi #4
Wien #11

"He has achieved success who has worked well, laughed often and loved much."
by Elbert Hubbard

The country is full of good coaches. What it takes to win is a bunch of interested players.
by Don Coryell, ex-San Diego Chargers coach

The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the others willing to let them.
by Robert Frost

A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are.
by Ara Parseghian

Tiff-Notes



Holiday season is time for love

Learning to love life's imperfections

by TIFFANY LEIGH BRATTON
editor-in-chief

Since the day we started college, our minds have expanded (ideally) with a surging force of new ideas and perspectives of life. Enmeshed within this growing terrain of understanding are the higher lessons of love and humanity.

Without love and acceptance of one another, the mental exercises of reason seem empty and dissatisfying to me. Love is the ever-real thread of life that

weaves strands of hope and joy in an otherwise desolate sphere. A world without love, I believe, would be a world without life or spirit.

Yet few of us seem to understand how much we touch and impact the lives of others. Like a barren desert of judgment, we seem to isolate ourselves from one another, forgetting that each of us bring wondrous possibilities in to the world.

Instead, we focus our attention on the fleeting realities of work or studies, allowing a materialistic ideal to control our hearts and attitudes.

At times, I have personally chosen the narrowed perspectives of materialism over the greater virtues of truth and humanity. I have looked upon the outer appearances of life, unwilling to see the deeper facets of our collective existence.

I do not believe I am the only person who has done this. It seems to be human nature for us to base our judgments on appearances.

One of our most basic viewpoints deals with perfection. We tend to expect ideal circumstances. We believe that everyone should function perfectly, never making mistakes and always displaying what we think is the best behavior.

We grapple with this viewpoint daily, whether it is with the person in front of us at the checkout counter, with the tedious waitress, or with the contemptuous professor (or student).

Every critical look, every judgmental comment that we make is based on our lack of awareness. We fail to realize that someone's hateful remark, slow pace or trying attitude is a symptom of distress. So is our reaction.

But perfection, once again, is our ideal reality. So we chastise and criticize each other, never seeing our common bonds.

I believe that when Christ gave us the commandment to love one another as he loves us, he was concurrently asking us to accept one another's imperfections.

In order to do this, we first must rise above our paradigm that seeks a perfect world (A paradigm is the barometer we use to evaluate reality. Thomas Kuhn first used the term "paradigm shift" in his book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. A paradigm shift is the "aha" experience, the resultant effect of changing the lenses used to view life.).

Our paradigms cause our shared, perfection-guided attitudes. Ironically, whenever we judge the sick or belittle the weak, we are becoming what we are judging.

I have personally experienced many paradigm shifts. One of these paradigm shifts occurred a few years ago.

Prior to transferring to Avila, I attended a local community college. One of my peers, a middle-aged woman of about forty, talked in a high-pitched voice. She giggled every few

moments, and her mere demeanor bothered me.

She was not likable and I judged her as being obnoxious.

Then one day I learned about her past.

She confided in me about her mentally retarded son, whom she had cared for since he was an infant. She told me she had married at an early age, and said that going to college had always been one of her dreams.

Upon learning about who she was, I knew that my judgments were harsh and unfair. This person, who at first seemed to be rude, became one of my friends. Once I understood her past, which enabled me to understand her present actions, I was able to overlook the upsetting aspects of her behavior.

She no longer bothered me. All feelings of scorn and criticism were wiped from my mind.

I was the person who had changed. My paradigm had shifted. Lowly thoughts of judgment were replaced with higher thoughts of acceptance.

During this holiday season, may we remember to honor and recognize the beauty in others. May our paradigms shift from perfection-guided ones to ones of acceptance. And may we remember to spread our love like a never-ending current of hope and joy.

Life's potential for goodness and beauty might then be able to shine, as life's wondrous opportunities are finally shared.

EXERCISE YOUR VOICE



Holiday "cheer"

by SARAH A. LaFONTEINE
opinions editor

This is supposed to be a season of goodwill to all and holiday cheer. Yeah, whatever.

I cannot tell you the last time I actually saw someone practice goodwill this time of the year.

We have become a society so incredibly fixated on the "importance" of material gifts.

For those of us who are Christian, we are supposed to be celebrating a central part of our religious beliefs: the birth of Christ.

Is that not the reason that we even have Christmas? Funny, but that is what I was taught it is about.

But that message seems to get lost in all the shopping bustle.

As someone who has worked in retail for the past four years, I have been able to experience all this "holiday cheer" first hand.

We all know that the day after Thanksgiving is the busiest day of the year, and I have worked all of them.

Every year, on my way to work, I think, "This year it will be different. It won't be that bad. People will be patient this year." Well, every year I have been proven wrong.

**Every year,
on my way to work,
I think, "This year
it will be different.
It won't be that bad.
People will be
patient this year."**

This year was no exception. We've all seen the parking lot brawls over spaces. I've seen the elbowing and stomping to get to products. And I've heard the obscene language and witnessed the short tempers.

It makes me sick.

This time of the year used to be one that I enjoyed. Now I can't wait for the holiday season to be over.

Maybe one of these years I'll be proven wrong. I hope so. Until then, I'll keep parking as far from the mall as I can to avoid getting hit or cussed out.

THE TALON

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Why I do not drink

by **K.C. MOULTRIE**
staff writer

I do not drink. Many of the reasons why I do not drink come from how I was raised and my religious background.

Does that mean I think people who drink are bad people? Absolutely not. Quite the contrary, actually. Many people I really admire and respect either have drunk or currently drink. I just think the negatives outweigh the positives.

Is there anything you can do when you drink, that you cannot do when you do not drink? I have yet to find someone who can answer that question for me. I realize that drinking "loosens you up" and makes you feel more comfortable; I hear that from everyone. But is it worth it?

There are the obvious physical concerns when you drink: alcohol poisoning, liver and brain damage; the list goes on and on. What I want to focus on, however, is the impairment of one's ability to make rational decisions when they are drunk.

That is what is really scary.

If you cannot think straight, and you cannot make decisions that you would normally make, who knows what you may do in that state. You can tell yourself all you want to that you are not going to drink and drive, but if you are unable to make those decisions when impaired, who is to say you will not?

You can say, for example, that you are not going to have unprotected sex or sex before marriage, but if you are unable to think clearly, you do not know what you will do.

To me, it is unfathomable that anyone would want to impair themselves to the point that they are not able to make decisions—decisions that could ultimately affect their lives.

I knew a woman in high school who

I respected very much. I always held her in high regard, and thought she was one of the nicest people I had ever had the opportunity to cross paths with.

One day, while driving a car under the influence of alcohol, she hit and killed a little boy.

Many people I really admire and respect either have drunk or currently drink. I just think the negatives outweigh the positives.

This did not change how I felt about this lady, but it certainly changed her life. She was so kind and giving; she would have never taken anything from anyone. Then, all of a sudden, she took life from someone who had barely

started living.

She was devastated. Needless to say, her life has not been the same since, and may never be the same again.

I am not saying drinking is morally right or wrong, is good or bad. What I am saying is that drinking is wrong for me. However, if my way of thinking can encourage anyone to think about the consequences the next time they want to drink, I feel good for having shared my opinion.

Nothing good can come from drinking alone. However, bad things can happen. You can say you are not going to get drunk, but you never know how few drinks it will take to get drunk.

Do not have your life or someone else's life changed drastically because you thought drinking would take away your problems or help you fit in. There are a million other ways to do those two things. Just weigh your options before you make that all-important decision not to be able to think as clearly as you normally would.

Christmas spirit competes with season's headaches

by **REBECCA GRAY**
news editor

The holiday hustle and bustle is only weeks away, but I cannot help the anxious feeling in the pit of my stomach. When am I going to find time to Christmas shop?

Christmas is supposed to be a happy time of the year. It brings with it stress and headaches.

People become obsessed with gift shopping, baking and decorating. The real meaning of Christmas gets lost among all the packages and wrapping paper.

The meaning of Christmas seems to change from holiday bliss into holiday stress. I'm responsible for buying gifts

for family and friends. I have to budget Christmas into my yearly financial plan.

Children are overpowered by the endless possibilities that await them under the tree Christmas day. Some are unaware of the reason Christmas exists. Their only concern is how many presents they have compared to their siblings.

Each year, Kris Kringle receives credit for many gifts under the tree. As a child I was blessed with many gifts at Christmas time. Santa was good to me.

It was not until my dad was laid off at his job and money became tight that I truly understood the meaning of giving.

As the oldest of four, I enjoyed many materialistic advantages. I was the first to receive many things and my siblings acquired my hand-me-downs.

When I was in middle school, I recall telling my mom that I did not need anything. She would often buy all of us candy at the grocery store, but I realized it was not something I needed. With my father laid off, we kids could do without a lot of things that we had grown accustomed to.

As a parent, the only true joy I have is seeing my daughter experience the magic of Christmas. I am challenged



Gabrielle, Rebecca Gray's daughter, opens her gifts from Santa

by giving her the things she wants, versus the things she needs. I want her to understand why Christmas is celebrated.

I want her to know how lucky she is to have people who love and care for her. I want her to understand the real meaning of Christmas revolves around family, and not gifts.

Christmas is still a magical time of the year, when people seem to be a little nicer than usual. Colored lights decorate the neighborhood streets, while holiday music can be heard everywhere.

It is the celebration of Christ's birth that brings us all together.

Overcoming Christmas stresses

by **SHALEE MORRIS**
staff writer

This time of the year is filled with holiday cheer and anticipation. But during a college student's life, this time of the year is also filled with stress.

The reality of final exams and research papers has finally set in. If you are like me, you think you have a

lot of time before the semester is over, and before you know it, it's already here.

I try to maintain an organized schedule to keep my assignments in check, but getting behind on one assignment can throw me off track for the remainder of the semester.

Sleep is a whole other story. Six hours of sleep seems like an eternity. The only time for recovery of lost sleep is on Sunday. As soon as I get up from a full night's sleep, I jump right back on the bandwagon and start on my assignments for the next week. This is a vicious cycle that my body adjusts to for the 16 week duration of the semester.

Many students, including myself, have many commitments other than school to attend to. Students either have to work at their jobs, join a work study program to lower the cost of tuition, participate in athletics to keep their scholarship funds, and/or join extracurricular activities to remain involved in school, not to mention having time for family and friends.

It is important among all of these commitments to stay grounded and not to lose touch with yourself. I keep telling myself that this is only temporary, and that all of this work will pay off when I hold that college degree in my hand.

Some things I try to do to stay on

track are not to push assignments off until the very last minute. I try to do a little bit at a time so I do not have to rush around at the very end. I make weekly lists of goals that I want to achieve. And I ask questions early. If you do not understand something, ask right away. This way, you can solve the problem earlier and have more time to relax.

I am sure that I am not the first college student to feel stressed, especially around this time of the semester.

Somehow, after writing this article, I feel better already.

Island man brings cherished memories

by **MELANIE SCHMITTLING**
associate editor

It was the Christmas of 1989. There was a man I never met before standing outside in my driveway. He was wearing sweat pants, a T-shirt and flimsy pair of ear muffs.

It did not seem to phase him that there were six inches of snow outside, and the thermometer read only 23 degrees.

That did not stop him from making snowballs, along with a weak attempt at shoveling our driveway.

This man was from the Aloha State of Hawaii, and would eventually become my uncle.

His name is Peter. He is a native of Hawaii and was engaged to marry my mother's sister. This was the first time my family in Kansas City had met him.

It was also Peter's first time to see real snow. Being so excited about all the "fluffy white stuff," as he liked to call it, he did not realize that he should have been wearing a coat, scarf, gloves and anything else that would keep him from getting frostbitten.

His boyish charm, carefree attitude and Filipino accent had us all hooked on wanting to learn more about his culture.

You see, Peter is the type of person who makes you feel like he has known you his entire life.

That year at Christmas was different than all the others because Peter was with us. Everyday was a learning experience for my brother and sister and me. He taught us to be more thankful and appreciative for everything that our parents provided us.

Peter comes from a family with 11 brothers and sisters. He grew up fourth to the oldest on a plantation on the island of Kauai. They did not have very much as children, and had to settle for toys and games that were mostly all homemade.

Growing up like this gave Peter a greater appreciation for everything that was ever given to him, especially life itself. He never takes anything for granted to this day, and cherishes all things.

He reminded my family and me that glorious Christmas of 1989 that it does not matter how much you get for Christmas, or even how much you give. It is all about being together, and most importantly, celebrating our Lord's birth.



In remembrance

Sharing the loss of a loved one during the holidays

by **SARAH A. LaFONTE**
opinions editor

As the holidays are fast approaching, many people are looking forward to presents and Christmas dinner with the family. Many are anxious to get home and dive into the festivities with a joyful heart. There will be carolers and Christmas lights, eggnog and mistletoe, good tidings and holiday cheer.

But not everyone will be quite so cheerful. For some people, the holidays are a very emotionally trying time. I am beginning to understand just how much I am dreading this upcoming Christmas.

Anyone who has lost someone close to them can probably relate to this best.

My grandmother passed away in January, so this is my first Christmas without her. It is so hard; I almost wish my family would forget about the holidays altogether.

My grandmother was always deeply involved in our family Christmas celebrations. She was always pulling something out of the oven or passing out the gifts that she had put so much thought into.

She had not been feeling well the last few years, so we would have the family come over to my parents' house. She would still be all over the place, making sure everyone was taken care of and having a good time.

This year, that bustling ball of holiday happiness will not be there, and the thought of a family gathering without her is breaking my heart.

I have been told that the first Christmas is the hardest, so I can only pray that it gets better from here. All I can do now is remember the way it used to be and help my family carry on her cheerful, loving memory.

Make sure to tell all the people you love just how much they mean to you. You never know if you will have a chance to tell them next Christmas.



And the anticipation continues...

by **KRISTEN REESE**
features editor

When my sisters and I were little we could not wait until Christmas morning. My parents had a rule that no one could go downstairs and look at the presents until everyone was up.

I was the most impatient. I woke up at 6 a.m. and would try to wake my parents up. They told me not even to bother until 7. So I would go up on our catwalk and look at the presents.



I tried to figure out what was in all of them.

After I got bored with that, I would go wake up my sisters, hoping it would annoy my parents enough to get up.

After my sisters and I finally got our parents up at 7, they drove me crazy with anticipation. They still had to drink a cup of coffee before we could open presents. My dad went downstairs to fix the coffee, and my mom tried to sleep another ten minutes.

I would run between the catwalk and my parents' room, while my sisters and I discussed what presents we would get. I tried to talk my mom into drinking her coffee while we opened presents. I would ask her, "Don't you want to open Dad's gift? He got you something really nice."

After a total of one hour and a half of waiting, my parents were finally ready to open presents. My sisters and I would get about 12 presents each. My parents always knew just what to get us.



Amy, Jackie, Sandy and Lindsay Young

by **AMY YOUNG**
production manager

My sisters and I are very close. I am the oldest, but there are only six years between my youngest sister and me. There are not very many Christmas memories in which they are not present. I get excited about spending time with them during the holidays everytime I see old photos like this one. This photo served as a Christmas card one year.

A Christmas gift of love

by **THERESE COX**
arts & entertainment editor

One Christmas I asked for a Mickey Mouse comforter set from Santa. Christmas morning came and there was a gigantic package under the tree. I just knew that it was the comforter set. I was so excited.

As I opened the box that was bigger than me, wrapped in beautiful red and green paper, I was growing more and more anxious.

Once I got all of the paper off I tore into the box. I looked down and my heart was broken. I did not see a red and black Mickey Mouse blanket in the bottom of the box. I saw something that was blue with little men all over it. What could this be?

As I pulled my gift out of the box, I started crying. It was a Mario Brothers blanket with a matching nightgown.

I couldn't believe it. How could Santa have done this to me? Mario Brothers!

I cried so hard that I was sent to my room. I just could not believe that I had received a "dumb" handmade blanket and nightgown.

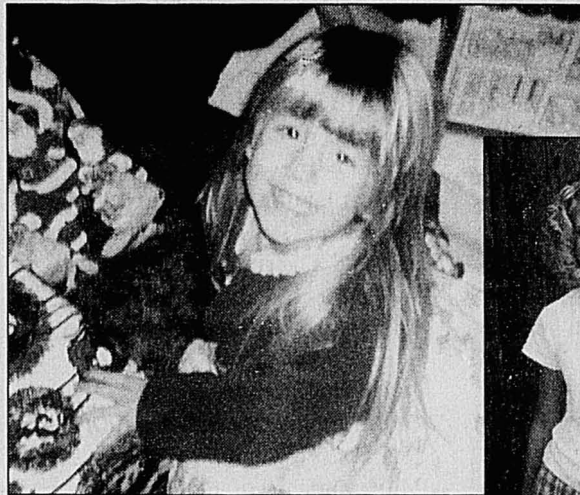
My mom came into my room and gave me the speech: "Christmas is for

giving, not for receiving." My mom said I should be thankful for the blanket that was made by our 90-year-old neighbor, Mrs. Cole. She thought that Mario and his brother, Luigi, were popular among children my age.

I did eventually get the Mickey Mouse comforter set.

But to this day, the one blanket that I took to college, and the one that lays at the end of my bed is the Mario Brothers blanket. It is a little worn with a couple of rips and tears, but I still feel the warmth and love that Mrs. Cole made it with.

I have found that the gifts that are made with love are the ones we come to cherish and keep forever. Happy Holidays.



What Christmas means to me

by **DENISE BRADSHAW**
chief photographer

Christmas for me really takes place on Christmas Eve. For as long as I have lived, my family has gone to my grandmother's house each Christmas Eve.

All of my aunts and uncles (my mom has eight brothers and sisters) would gather together.

We always have dinner around 4 p.m. As a little girl, I was always anxious after dinner because I knew Santa would be coming soon. Santa visits my grandma's house every year at around 7:30 p.m.

I was so excited to hear him say, "Denise" when he pulled my present out of the bag and handed it to me.

All the children get presents, and I still do too, even though I am 20 years old now.

As I have gotten older, I have made new traditions with my friends, but I still go to my grandma's house every year on Christmas Eve.

Christmas is about magical wonderment

What the spirit of Christmas has taught me

by **TIFFANY LEIGH BRATTON**
editor-in-chief

There seems to be a magical ambiance during the holiday season. The world somehow feels different, as if an inarticulate seed of hope were flooding the streets.

Children sense this excited stream of reality; their gazes focus on everything while their eyes dance with excited looks of wonder.

As adults, we may find ourselves traveling down our own paths of reminiscent wonderment. As we heave the old, dusty boxes that are filled with ornaments off our shelves, we may find ourselves caught in a world of memories. Our pillage through decoration boxes can be almost like searching for photographs of Christmases past.

One of my ornament-induced memories is playing with my Barbies underneath the Christmas tree; my imagination transformed the tree into a sky house mansion for my dolls.

The twinkling lights on the tree were stars and many of the ornaments on this make-shift doll house doubled as Barbie's friends.

Such memories also remind me of the many lessons I have learned about love, honesty and sharing during this

season of the year.

I remember, for example, the year I found a wrapped Christmas gift in the family room. I was about five.

Every day I passed the place where the gift was hidden, and each time I did, a growing desire to know what was inside it multiplied within me.

One evening, I gave in to the force of temptation and crept toward the box. I gently pulled one corner of the neatly-taped paper back and peered underneath it.

No clues about what was inside the box were revealed, so I slowly unwrapped another corner. Still nothing.

Frustrated, I debated what to do next. I made my choice, and within a few seconds, I had torn each corner lose. Still there were no clues.

The power of temptation urged me to continue. Soon, ripped shreds of wrapping paper were lying on the floor around my feet.

I peered inside the mystery box and found a pair of white boots. I had been expecting a doll, and seeing the boots caused a frown to emerge on my lips.

Suddenly, with a flash of guidance from my conscience, I realized what I had done. Tears started flowing down my cheeks.

My dad heard me crying, and as he walked into the room, his gaze focused on the paper strewn around my feet. He did not say anything as he leaned over and picked the paper up.

I sniffled as I watched him quietly re-wrap the gift, well aware that what I had done was wrong.

Once finished, Dad spoke to me. "I think you've learned your lesson about this," he said. "So, just act surprised when you open it Christmas, and we'll never talk about it again."

When Christmas Day arrived, my shrill scream of "Boots! Boots! How did you know I wanted boots?" meant that my mother would also learn about what I had done.

But neither Mom nor Dad criticized me for my behavior that year, even though I knew they were both disappointed in me.

What I came to understand that year, like many other lessons have taught me, was the importance of patience, truthfulness, strength of character and love.

To me, the magical and mystical forms of the holidays, from the story of the Savior's birth to the spiritual tidings of love and peace, speak of promises that are part of our souls. These promises are many times expressed in the form of subtle lessons. The lessons are mysterious truths which surround the heart of the season.

The lesson of sacrifice and giving, learned another year, has been carried within my heart since childhood.

That year, my family attended a Christmas party at our church, and each person was supposed to bring a used, "white elephant" gift to exchange with someone else.

My mom helped me select a stuffed mouse from my collection. It had a gray felt body and pink yarn tail.

What I unwrapped at the party that night was a wooden car. In my eyes, a car was not as "neat" as my mouse.

But thanks to my mother's patience and love, I learned that year that nothing should ever be given in order to get something back. I learned that the Christmas message is about love and hope, not about receiving material gifts.

Christmas, experience has taught me, is about joy and giving, about patience and love. It is about forgiveness and the simplicity of being together with family and friends. That is the meaning of Christmas to me, and is what I think the Savior's birth represents.

This type of meaning is what makes Christmas magical in my eyes.



A R T S &

M E A T L O A F S M O V I E R E V I E W S

by **JAMES GARDNER**
staff writer

Some liked it, some protested and some hated *Dogma*.

Dogma is about two outcast Angels who have found a way to get back into heaven through "Dogmatic Law," which the movie explained as law coming from the Bible.

An angel recruits the "last Zion," which is the last descendent of Mary, to stop them.

Along the way, she meets up with two unknowing prophets: a muse and the 14th Apostle, who was never mentioned because he is black. They team up to stop the outcasts from reentering heaven. If the outcasts reentered, all of existence would be destroyed.

Dogma is another installment in Kevin Smith's New Jersey series, which includes the films *Clerks*, *Mallrats* and *Chasing Amy*.

This movie strays away from the other three in the fact that it is dealing with religion on a grand scale. It also puts forth some very interesting questions about God and religion in general.

There are many "big name" actors in this movie, all of whom play their parts very well.

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon play the outcast Angels, Linda Fiorentino plays the last Zion, Chris Rock plays the 14th Apostle and Alan Rickman plays Metatron, who is the angel referred to as "the voice of God."

The two characters that steal the spotlight are Jay and Silent Bob, played by Jason Mewes and Kevin Smith. These two are the unknowing prophets, and are the most hilarious characters I have ever seen. They have been in all four of Kevin Smith's New Jersey movies, but *Dogma* is the first film in which they have a major role.

I loved this movie. I have not laughed as hard as I did during this movie in a long time. It was shot well and the script was excellent. I give it a nine on a scale of one to 10. This is also the first movie I have reviewed this year that I am going to go back to see again.

Having the time of my life

by **SARAH A. LaFONTE**
opinions editor

BACKSTREET BOYS REVIEW

Imagine thousands of shrieking fans, thundering bass and amazing pyrotechnics. And that is before the headlining act.

On Nov. 18, the Backstreet Boys invaded Kansas City, and what an invasion it was. The day of the concert, every pop music radio station played Backstreet all day, making the thousands of fans even more anxious for the concert of their lifetime.

I had been waiting to see the Boys in concert for almost five years. They debuted in Germany about six years ago, and a German pen pal of mine sent me a copy of their debut European album shortly after it was released.

After missing their Kansas City concert in August 1998, I was determined to make it to their "Into the Millennium Tour" this year.

It was more than worth the wait.

Mandy Moore was the first opening act. The best part of her act was her dancers. She admitted that she was a little under the weather, but the tiny 15-year-old did not lack any energy or any form of charisma.

Next was the three man group EYX (Express Yourself Clearly). I'll just say that their act got good when their shirts came off. Their songs were

generic, but served the purpose of pumping up the crowd for the Boys.

At about 8:30 p.m., the Backstreet Boys took the stage, or shall I say, invaded the stage. Their musicians, dressed all in white, took their places. The next thing we heard was the imperial march from *Star Wars* flooding the speakers. The dancers took the stage dressed all in black and carrying torches.

Then the Boys were flown onto the stage by harnesses. Once they landed, they fell into military lines. Under the direction of Kevin Richardson, the oldest member of the group, the Boys and their dancers marched to each side of their pentagon-shaped stage and saluted the audience. The crowd erupted when the familiar pounding sounds of "Larger than Life" began.

The next two and a half hours flew by. One highlight was when a white baby grand piano was lowered from the ceiling and raised on the center platform. Kevin played an instrumental solo, and then the group joined him while he played "Back To Your Heart," a song he wrote for their *Millennium* album.

Another memorable moment was when they dedicated "Show Me the Meaning of Being Lonely" to their late producer, Dennis Pop. The song was the last song that Pop worked on with the Backstreet Boys before his death to cancer last year.

Overall, it was an incredible experience. The Boys performed songs from all their albums. From "That's the Way I Like It," off their European album, to their first hit from *Millennium*, "I Want It That Way," the Boys mixed the old with the new and put on an amazing show.

It was more than worth the wait!

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Tartuffe concludes millennium for Goppert Theater

by **SARAH A. LaFONTE**
opinions editor

THEATRE REVIEW

Sunday, Nov. 22 marked the finale for Goppert Theater's final show of this millennium.

The show was *Tartuffe* by Jean-Baptiste Moliere. It was very well done and proved to be a wonderful show-

case of the amazing talent in the theater program.

One such talent was sophomore Ashley Blake in the role of Dorine, a lady's maid. Blake provided much of the comic relief and a breath of fresh air to a show that could have been very dry.

As a whole, the show was entertaining and thought-provoking. The set, modeled after a room in the Palace of Versailles, was remarkable, and the show was done in very high taste.

There were many notable performances and the cast and crew obviously worked very hard to have a show they could be proud of. They carried off the show with dignity and proved just how far their hard work could take them.

It was an incredible show, and a great way for the Avila theater program to end the millennium.

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Beauty queen walks Avila hallways

by **THERESE COX**
arts & entertainment editor

Alicia Cabrera, a junior theater major, recently competed in the Miss Kansas USA pageant.

She passed the preliminaries and was one out of 10 women that went on to the finals. Cabrera was the second runner-up in the finals and scored the highest in the interview category. Her prizes included a one year supply of Hawaiian Tropic products, a variety of gift certificates, flowers, a huge trophy and much more.

The question that Cabrera was asked, "Do you feel the pageant system should change the policy of not allowing girls to participate, when they have had abortions or have been married?"

Cabrera answered the question with, "No, the girls sign a contract stating they have not been married or have had children. It's part of a tradition that should not be broken. There are many other pageant systems that allow women who are married or who have been married or have had children to compete."

This answer placed Cabrera with the highest interview score.

Contestants must prepare themselves both mentally and physically for each pageant. A year prior to the pageant, Cabrera went through an intensive physical fitness program.

Then, six months before the pageant was held, she attended pageant coaching, which included training for interviews (the questions asked both on and off the stage), walking, evening wear, swim wear and interview wear. It also gave advice about what to expect and suggestions for the pageant.

Cabrera has competed in many pageants, which include: Kansas Pre-

Teen Pageant, Kansas Teen Pageant, National Scholastic Beauty pageant, Kansas Teen Hostess, National American GI Forum (locally, state and nationally) and Miss Kansas USA.

To compete in the Miss Kansas USA pageant, the contestants must meet the traditional standards of the pageant. One must maintain a C average or better in school and cannot have been married or have had children or an abortion.

Contestants cannot do anything to exploit their name or the pageant's name. They cannot have a federal offense on their record or have been charged with a crime.

Each contestant must sign a contract saying that if they win they will follow through with nationals.

If they win the title of Miss Kansas USA, they will go on to the Miss USA pageant in Branson, Mo., and then continue on to the Miss Universe pageant.

Many times the Miss USA pageant and Miss America pageants are confused. The Miss America pageant is different in that the contestant must have a talent and a platform. It is based more on the platform than it is on beauty.

The Miss Kansas USA pageant is based on three categories: swim wear, interviews and evening wear.

There are a variety of pageants that one can compete in. One that is based entirely on education is the American CO-Ed pageant.

Cabrera recommends this pageant for children because it is purely based on education rather than beauty. "I am totally against the JonBenet Ramsey pageants. I would not be the 'pageant mom,'" Cabrera said.

The American CO-Ed pageant bases the scores on grades, interview, poise and appearance. Poise and appearance is different from beauty because it is based on the contestant's speaking abilities.

"My goal for next year is to reach the top five. I don't go in with an 'I must win' attitude; I think you need to set goals and be happy with what you get," Cabrera said.



by **ROSSANA VALLAZZA**
staff writer

Christopher "Bump" Ervin has one semester left at Avila. Currently, he works in the sports marketing department at Bank of America and plans to continuing working there after he graduates from college. He played baseball for four years and now is an assistant coach for Avila's varsity baseball team. Always showing up to class dressed to the nines, Chris spent some time discussing his fashion sense.

Rossana: The ever important question is where do you shop and why do you shop there?

Chris: I shop at all stores. My favorite mall is Oak Park Mall. I'm not into wearing labels, so the mall is the best way to pick out clothes. You can mix and match clothes from different stores. J.C. Penney is my favorite store because the selection, price and everything is good. It's not expensive, but it's not cheap. It's just a nice store.

Rossana: Who or what influences what you wear?

Chris: When I am at home and looking through my closet, I dress for whatever mood I am in. If you feel like wearing jogging pants and a T-shirt, do not wear a business casual outfit. You do not come across as comfortable. It's all about attitude. When I go out, I have to change once or twice as my attitude changes. If I am late getting somewhere it is because I am mixing and matching my clothing. My friends do not know about it, and they tend to give me a hard time if they are waiting for me at my house.

Rossana: What is your style considered?

Chris: Bump-diggity is my style. It is a word I coined. I do not really watch other people to copy their style. You have to be original if you want people to notice you. They don't if you are dressed liked somebody else. I do not like paying for name brands. I do not want to sponsor DKNY, Hugo Boss or Nautica. As you get older, you mature with your fashion sense and want to be an individual. I am big on color. My favorite color is brown because it matches my skin color. It's not like red, which everybody notices, or black, which creates a somber mood. It's in between.

Rossana: Some men do not wear any accessories. Do you?

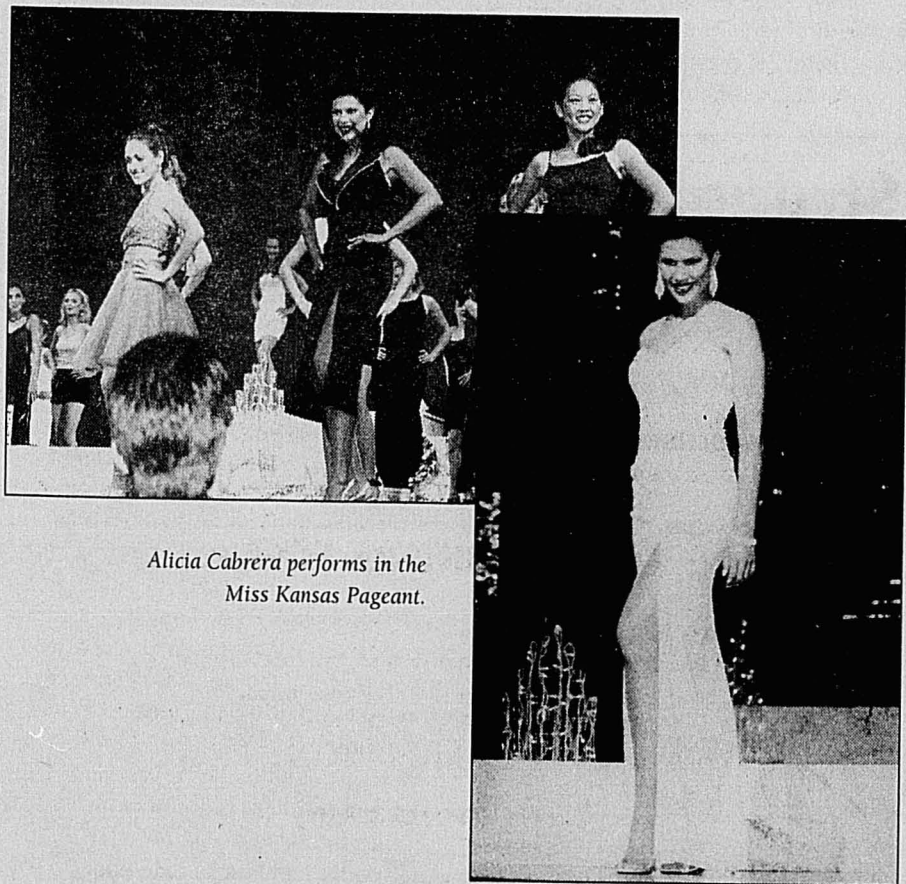
Chris: I have a lot of accessories. The necklace I wore today is from New York. I also have gold chains and watches. A watch should always match your belt and shoes. If it does not match, it better be all metal.

Rossana: Share some of your fashion rules with us.

Chris: Stay well groomed. Facial hair and the hair on your head should be neat and clean. Clothing that does not fit is out. Oversized jeans that sag are no good. I did used to wear them, but that was my attitude back then.

Rossana: Name your fabulous fall purchase.

Chris: I got an eight button single breasted suit for a great price. It's black and has a long coat. It's very tailored and very sharp. I can match two or three different ties and a couple of nice dress shirts and I'll be all right.



Alicia Cabrera performs in the Miss Kansas Pageant.



photography Denise Bradshaw

Fashion Sense takes a look at the confident style of Chris "Bump" Ervin.



Ismal Sebaggal

International Student Spotlight

by: **KRISTEN REESE**
features editor

Ismal Sebaggala is from Uganda, Africa. This is his first year in America, and at Avila. He has only been in America for two months.

"I chose to come to Avila because I got information about the college from a friend in Africa. I got interested and decided to write in. They sent me some papers, so I applied," Sebaggala said.

He really enjoys it at Avila. "It is

good, academic wise; classes are convenient, and I can get in touch with my teachers," Sebaggala said.

The difference he found between schools here and schools in Africa was the environment. The people and places were different for Sebaggala.

Some of Sebaggala's hobbies are: listening to slow music, boxing and playing soccer. He said he is a good soccer player.

Three words that Sebaggala used to described himself were: "Ugandan, black and a guy."

Avila students are not all Catholic

by **MELISSA BASHAM**
staff writer

Catholicism is not the predominant religion on campus, even though Avila is a Catholic college.

"Well there are Catholics because it is a Catholic institution, which makes up 40 percent of the population," Steve Huber, director of campus ministry, said.

Huber has served professionally for the chapel on campus for a couple of years and as the spiritual youth director at local high schools.

"There are a lot of Protestants that probably house the majority. The rest are in many forms, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists and so forth," Huber said.

"There are also some people from Jewish backgrounds and faith, some Buddhists too," Huber said.

According to Huber's beliefs, religion is how people get to know God and how they come to understand how God loves them and what that can mean for their lives.

Huber said he sees many college students searching for the meaning of life and the joy of feeling alive inside.

Heather Fenstermann, a senior information science major, said, "I attend church on major holidays and maybe once a month."

Fenstermann's religion is Catholicism, but she does not consider herself to be very religious.

She said when she is upset, church seems to help her out with her problems.

Another view is from Adam Higgins, an undeclared major. "I go to church every Sunday, but it doesn't really affect my daily life," he said.

Higgins's religion is Christian Science. "When ever I am having problems, I look up to God or read the Bible," Higgins said.

"We engage so much of our time achieving purposes of outer value, helping others out, feeding the hungry, contributing to society, building a good, peaceful society, and not causing wars," Huber said.

"But a lot of times we neglect or forget about that inner value that we have, and I think that is what religion does; that inner value is associated with being alive."

Students prepare for Christmas celebrations

by **KARA ANDERSON**
staff writer

Getting together with family and friends, unwrapping presents and stuffing their bellies full of turkey and goodies are just a few of the ways some students will be celebrating their Christmas.

Senior Bill Gleeson said, "Everybody gets together, drinks and has a great ol' time" at his house.

Sophomore Annie Beard comments, "I'm going to celebrate Christmas at my Grandma's house in Peculiar. I will eat too much. And hopefully, I will get good gifts this year."

Many people will be traveling during their Christmas break, such as senior Trina Langdon. She plans to spend Christmas with her family in Wyoming.

"I will be enjoying the real snow and the cold that only a Wyoming winter can bring," she said. "I will be driving

by myself, so I look forward to seeing the sights."

Christmas is a time when most families and friends come together and rejoice. Many people will be spending time with relatives near and far.

Sarah Smith, senior, said her brother is flying into Kansas City from Hong Kong. "We will spend Christmas with my family. Then, I'm going to Massachusetts for New Year's," she said.

Junior Katie Johnson commented that she would be "enjoying the family and playing in the snow with my nieces and nephews."

Having a good time and simply relaxing is what is on some students' minds.

"I plan to spend the holiday with my friends and family. This break from school allows for sleep, food, sleep, and quality time with the 'fam' and friends. Oh, yeah, did I mention sleep?" senior Melissa Villanueva said.

Junior Julian Jackson said that for his Christmas celebration he will go home and spend time with his family and friends. "And play with my little dog," he said. "I hope to eat a lot."

Whether students decide to relax, party, travel or stay at home, most said they will try to keep warm, stay safe and have a merry Christmas.

How to avoid the shopping madness

by **JAMES GARDNER**
staff writer

It is that time of year again: time to dust off the old running shoes and get to those sales.

Ever wonder how to have a hassle-free Christmas shopping experience? Here are some tips to help shoppers along the way.

- Shop early. Get to the stores before everyone else rushes there at the last minute.

- Have a set amount of money for each person on the list. This helps shoppers stay within their budget.
- Avoid malls, if possible. They are just one big headache.
- The dollar stores are a good place to shop if one has a low budget. People can get a lot of nice things there, and they are perfect for a college student.
- Shoppers should have a good idea of what they are going to buy. That way, they can go in the store and get out in a flash.
- If someone takes a potential parking space, let it slide. No one wants to get their car keyed because they did not want to walk a few extra feet.

This list of Christmas shopping tips was compiled from suggestions made by students at Avila.

Struggles on campus

A profile of the injured

by **MEGAN REDENBAUGH**
staff writer

A leg cast sets in the corner of a darkened room as a symbol of something to overcome.

College student Candice Frede said she has had a difficult semester after wearing the cast for about a month.

Soccer initiated the weakening of Frede's ankle, leading to the necessity of a cast.

"I found that the field condition not only turned my ankle, but worsened something in it that I didn't even know

existed," Frede said.

She refers to the fact that she has had an elongated bone pressing against the tendons in her ankle. Frede did not know this until visits to the doctor and physical therapy sessions revealed it.

The cast was given by the therapist to help the condition. In the appearance of a moon boot, the cast extends to the knee and is strapped on by Velcro.

"It made walking around campus especially difficult for me, causing further back pain from an uneven stance," Frede said.

Presently, she is without the cast but the pain still remains to be overcome. The physical therapy has been terminated and MRI results are still being determined.

"The waiting is the hardest part. I am hoping the doctor can pinpoint what is wrong and have the knowledge of how to fix the problem," Frede said.

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